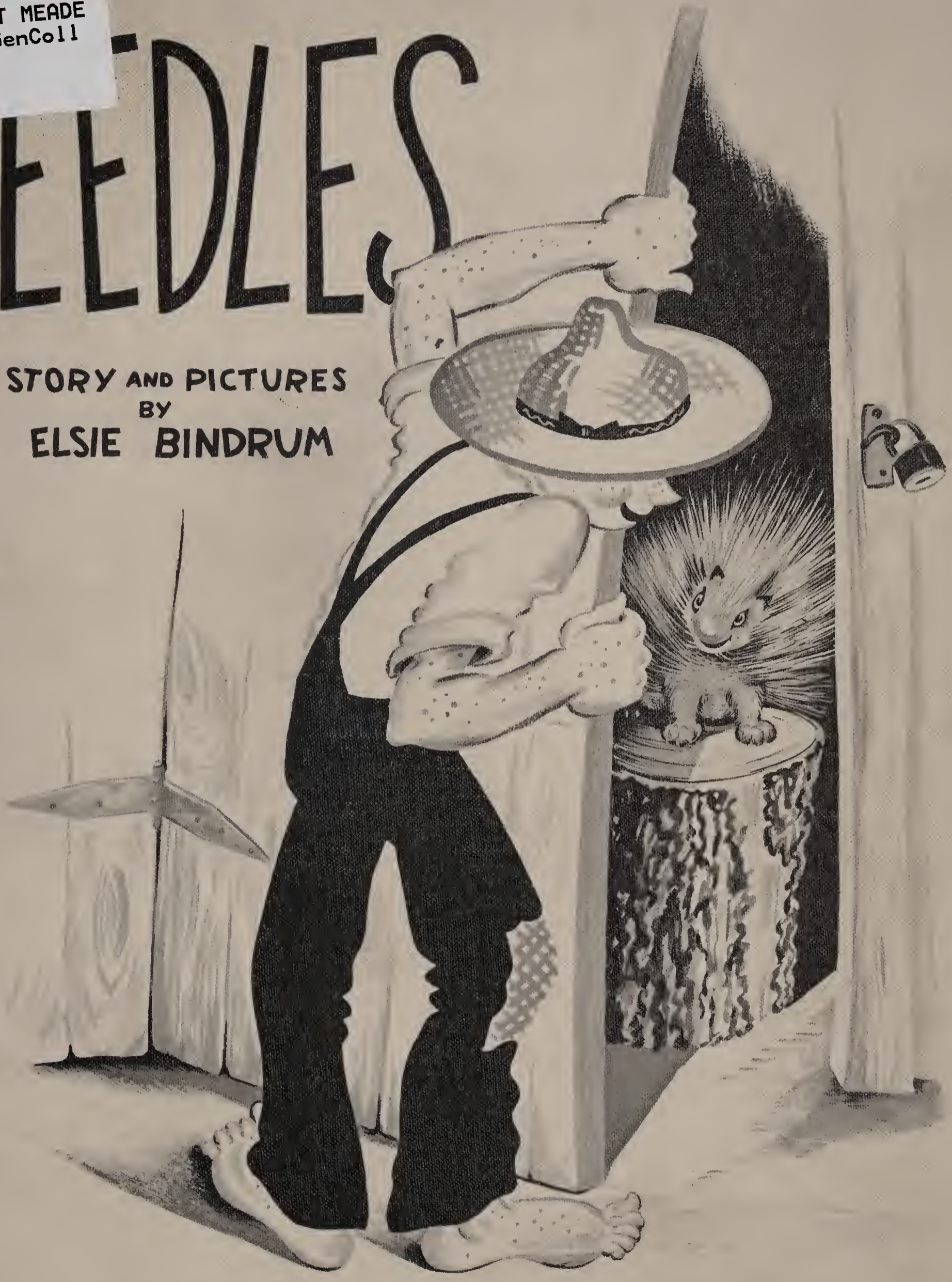


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BY
ELSIE BINDRUM



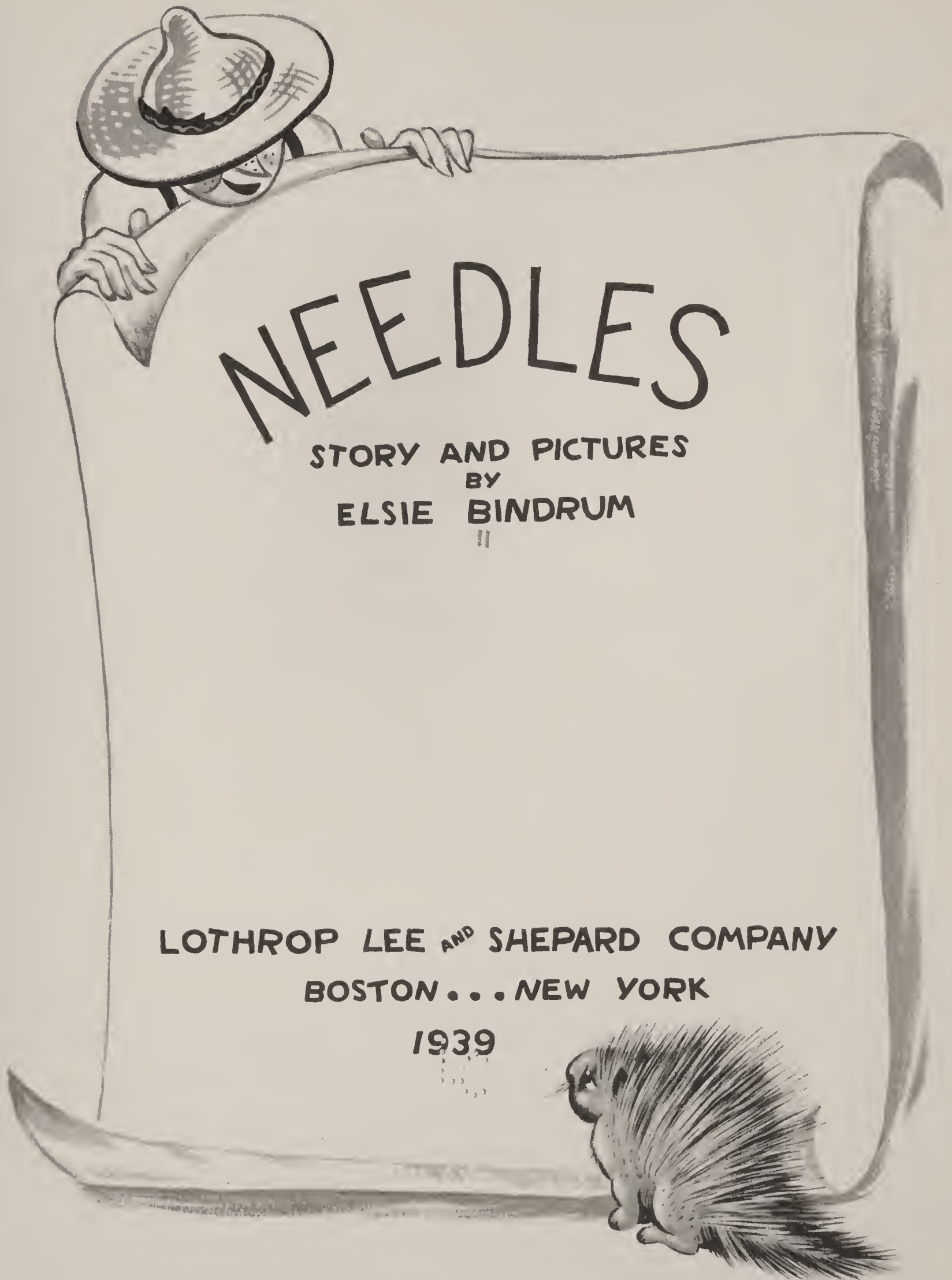


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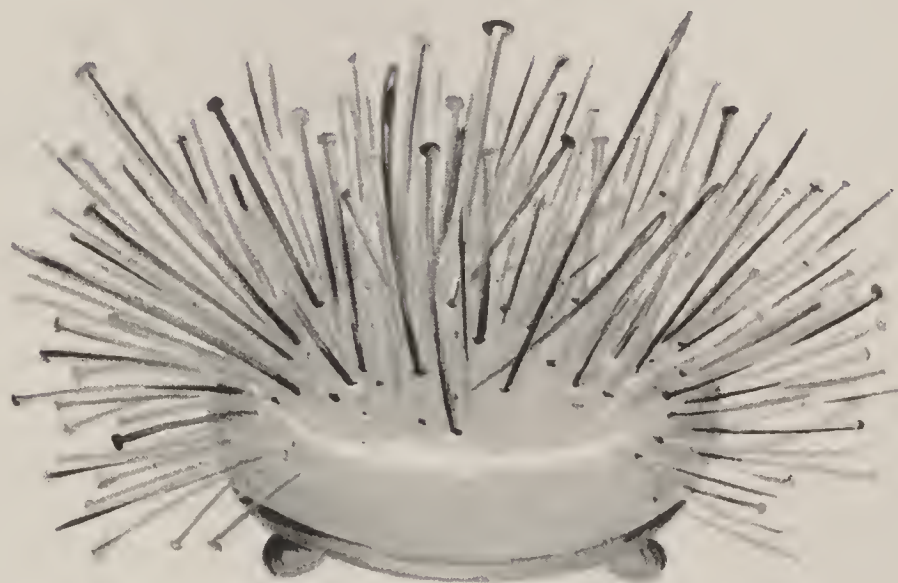


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**IF YOU HAD
A PINCUSHION**



FULL OF PINS

AND THEN YOU ADDED A TAIL

AND A LITTLE HEAD

WITH A CURVED NOSE

IT WOULD LOOK SOMETHING

LIKE



THIS .

THAT'S HOW NEEDLES LOOKED

WHEN TIMOTHY



FIRST SAW



HIM .

TIMOTHY WAS

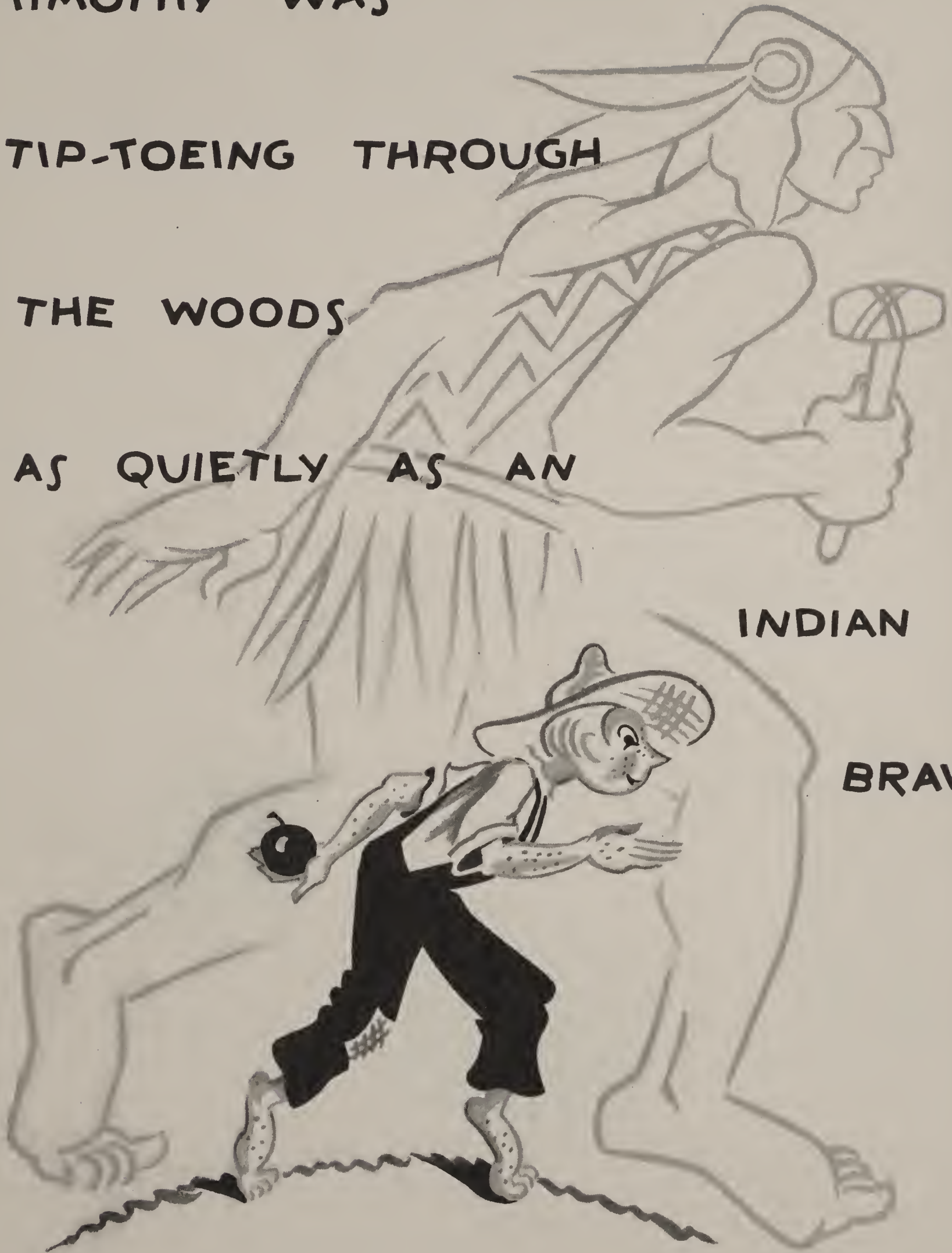
TIP-TOEING THROUGH

THE WOODS

AS QUIETLY AS AN

INDIAN

BRAVE.





HE HOPED TO

SPY A LITTLE DEER

OR

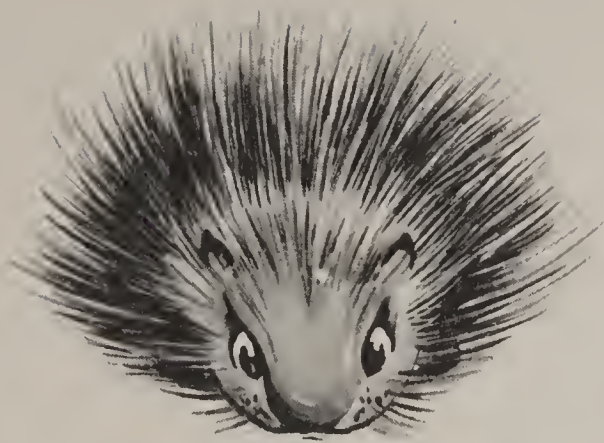


A SLY FOX

OR AT LEAST A

COTTON-TAIL BUNNY.





ALL OF A

SUDDEN OUT POPPED NEEDLES .

HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING HIS

LITTLE CURVED NOSE THAT HAD

BEEN FOLLOWING THE SMELL OF

AN APPLE WHICH WAS THE VERY

APPLE TIMOTHY WAS EATING .



NEEDLES AND TIMOTHY WERE SO
SURPRISED THAT THEY BOTH STOOD AS
STILL AS THE TREES AROUND THEM.



TIMOTHY WAS THE FIRST TO MOVE .

HE BENT OVER AND GENTLY PUSHED

THE APPLE TOWARD

THE BABY

PORCUPINE .



NEEDLES

SNIFFED AND SNIFFED

AT IT . THEN HE ATE IT ALL UP .

THEN NEEDLES WASN'T HUNGRY ANY
LONGER AND HE WANTED TO BE FRIENDS
WITH TIMOTHY. HIS QUILLS LAY FLAT AND
SMOOTH AND TIMOTHY PATTED
HIM AND TALKED TO HIM. NEEDLES
SEEMED TO LIKE IT. IF HE HAD BEEN A
KITTEN HE WOULD HAVE PURRED BUT AS
HE WAS A PORCUPINE HE JUST GRUNTED.



AFTER A WHILE TIMOTHY HAD TO
GO HOME... NEEDLES WATCHED TIMOTHY
GO DOWN THE PATH THAT LED OUT OF
THE WOODS. HE THOUGHT THAT MAYBE
THERE WERE PLENTY OF APPLES WHERE
TIMOTHY LIVED. SO HE HURRIED DOWN
THE PATH TOO, AND TIMOTHY AND THE
BABY PORCUPINE WENT HOME TOGETHER.



WHEN THEY
CAME TO THE
FARM HOUSE WHERE



TIMOTHY LIVED WITH AUNTIE MAY AND UNCLE
HARRY, THEY PEEKED THROUGH THE SCREEN DOOR.

AUNTIE MAY WAS IN THE KITCHEN AND SHE
WAS STIRRING UP A BATCH OF JOHNNY-CAKE.

"AUNTIE MAY," SAID TIMOTHY, AND HIS VOICE
WAS SO SMALL YOU ALMOST COULDN'T
HEAR HIM, "I'VE BROUGHT HOME A FRIEND."

"THAT'S NICE," AUNTIE MAY SAID. "WHO IS IT, TIM?"

"IT'S---IT'S A BABY PORCUPINE."

"MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS!" AUNTIE MAY WAS

SO SURPRISED THAT HER BIG

STIRRING SPOON DROPPED

WITH A CLANG.

AND IT SPATTERED

GLOBS OF JOHNNY-CAKE

BATTER ALL OVER HER

SPOTLESS FLOOR.



"PLEASE LET ME KEEP HIM," BEGGED TIMOTHY,
"HE SEEMS TO BE ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD."

AND WHEN AUNTIE MAY SAW THAT NEEDLES

LOOKED SO SMALL AND SO HARMLESS

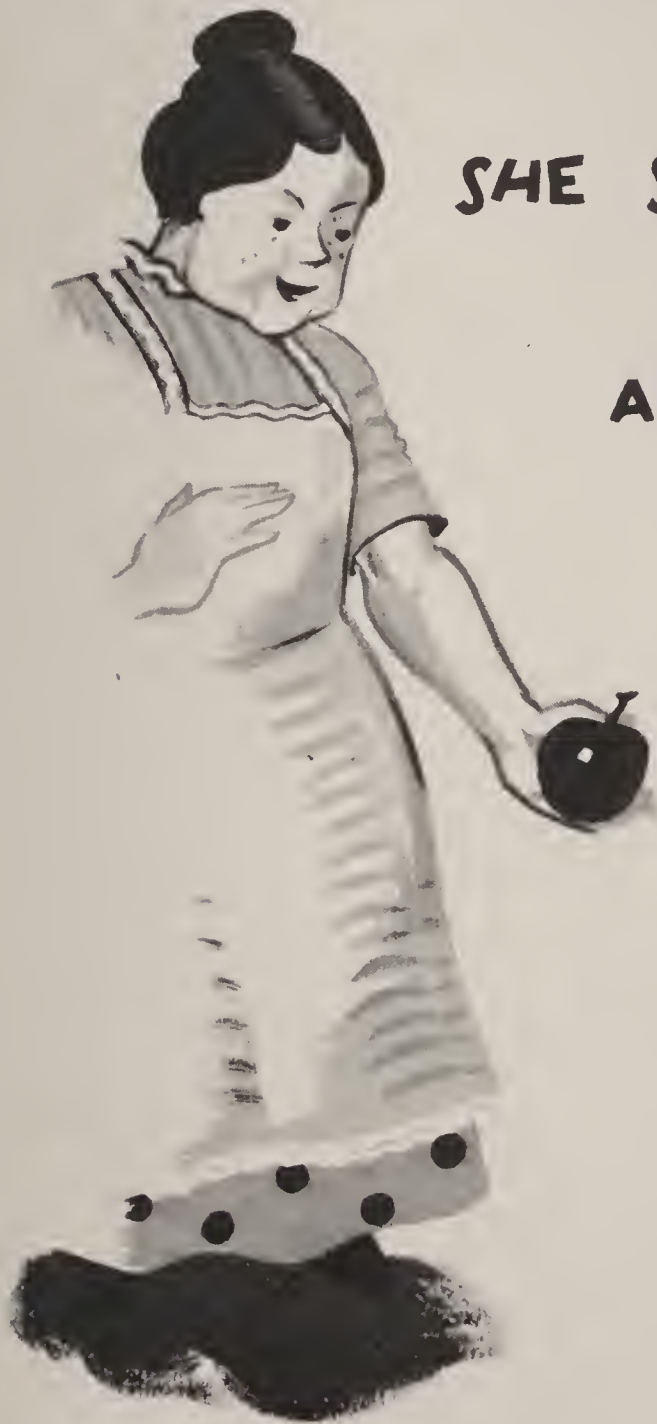
SHE SAID HE COULD STAY.

AND SHE EVEN

GAVE NEEDLES

ANOTHER

APPLE...



THEN NEEDLES CURLED UP IN

UNCLE HARRY'S FAVORITE

ROCKING-

CHAIR



AND WENT TO SLEEP

AND EVERYBODY

FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM . .



AND TIMOTHY DID

HIS EVENING CHORES



BEFORE

SUPPER.



AFTER SUPPER, UNCLE HARRY TOOK HIS
NEWSPAPER AND STARTED TO SIT DOWN IN

HIS FAVORITE ROCKING-CHAIR

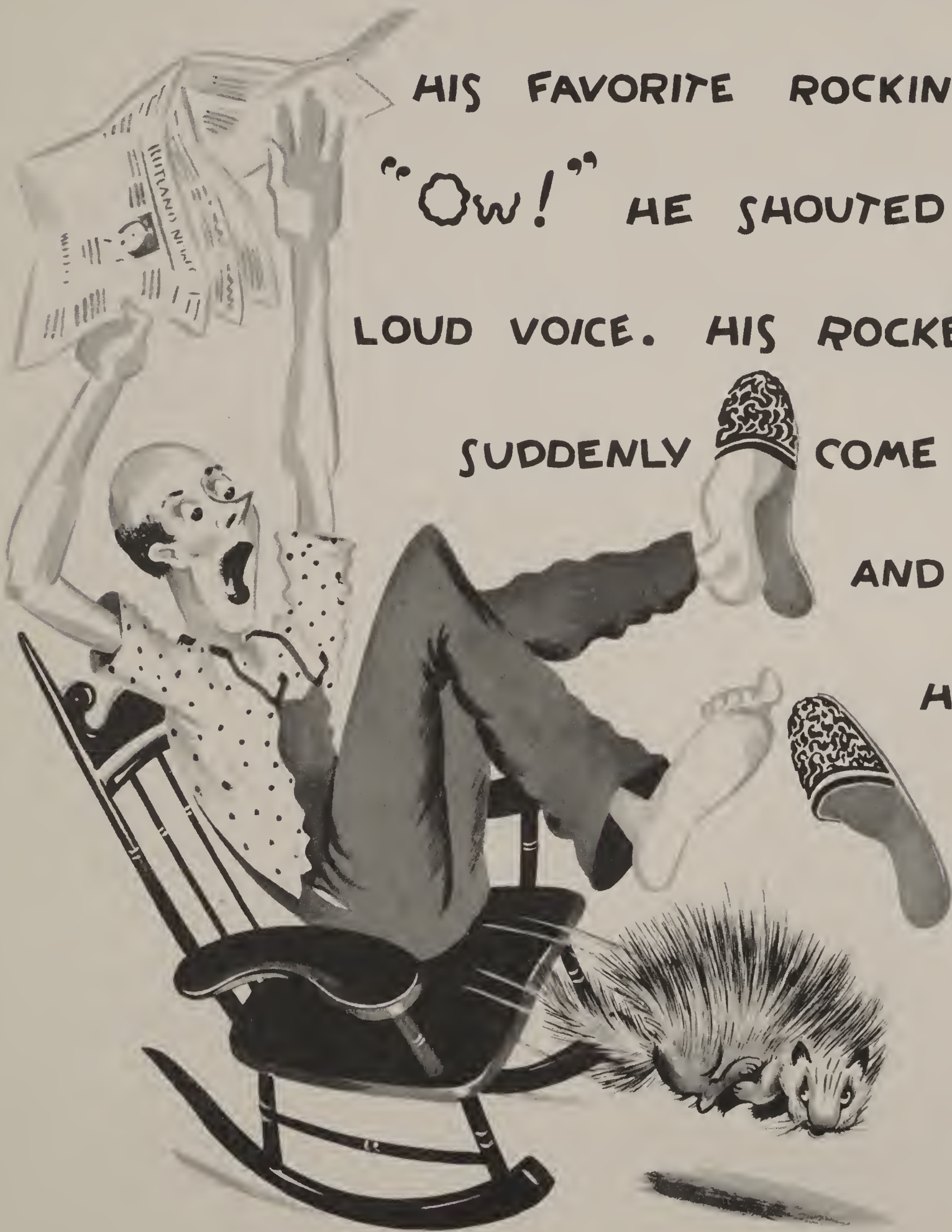
"Ow!" HE SHOUTED IN A

LOUD VOICE. HIS ROCKER HAD

SUDDENLY COME TO LIFE

AND STUCK

HIM!

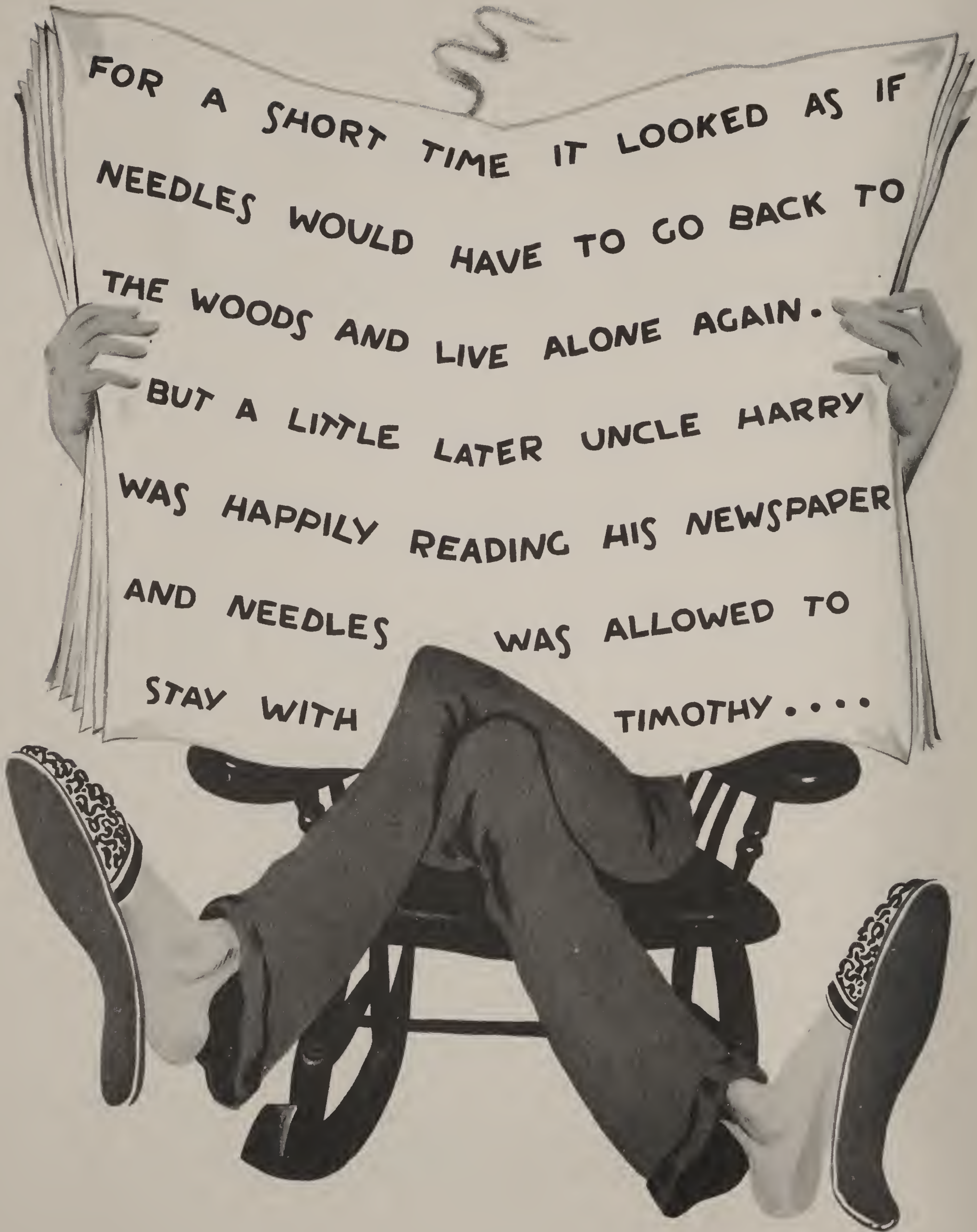


OF COURSE IT WAS NEEDLES WHO
DID THE STICKING, AND HE WAS JUST
AS SURPRISED AS UNCLE HARRY . . .
NOBODY EXPECTS TO BE SAT ON
WHILE HE'S SLEEPING. NEEDLES WAS
SO FRIGHTENED THAT HE SCOOTED
THROUGH THE HOUSE AND HID IN
THE GUEST ROOM BEHIND
THE BIG WHITE PITCHER
ON THE WASH STAND.



FOR A SHORT TIME IT LOOKED AS IF
NEEDLES WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO
THE WOODS AND LIVE ALONE AGAIN.

BUT A LITTLE LATER UNCLE HARRY
WAS HAPPILY READING HIS NEWSPAPER
AND NEEDLES WAS ALLOWED TO
STAY WITH TIMOTHY



AS THE DAYS WENT BY NEEDLES LIKED
HIS NEW HOME MORE AND MORE...

THERE WAS ALWAYS PLENTY TO EAT
WITHOUT HAVING TO WORK FOR IT...

DURING THE DAY NEEDLES COULD
ALWAYS FIND A PIECE OF WOOD TO CHEW
ON, AND AT NIGHT HE WOULD PROWL
AROUND IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE...





ONE NIGHT AS THE CLUMSY

LITTLE FELLOW WAS

EXPLORING THE PANTRY HE

KNOCKED SOME JARS OFF THE SHELF..

THE CRASH ALMOST FRIGHTENED

AUNTIE MAY OUT OF HER

WITS. THEN SHE TOLD

TIMOTHY THAT EVERY NIGHT

HE HAD TO PUT NEEDLES OUT.



AND TIMOTHY ALWAYS DID.



BUT ONE NIGHT HE WAS

SO TIRED THAT HE WENT

RIGHT TO BED AFTER SUPPER AND FORGOT

ALL ABOUT NEEDLES. SO ALL THAT



NIGHT NEEDLES CHEWED

ON A TABLE LEG AND

NIBBLED ON A CHAIR LEG.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING UNCLE HARRY
CAME DOWNSTAIRS. HE WAS IN A VERY HAPPY
MOOD. HE SAT DOWN TO A BREAKFAST OF CRISPY
HOT PANCAKES. ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WAS
A CRASH! THE NEXT
MINUTE HE WAS ON
THE FLOOR CROWNED
WITH PANCAKES AND
SYRUP!





THE CHAIR WITH

THE NIBBLED

LEG HAD CRASHED

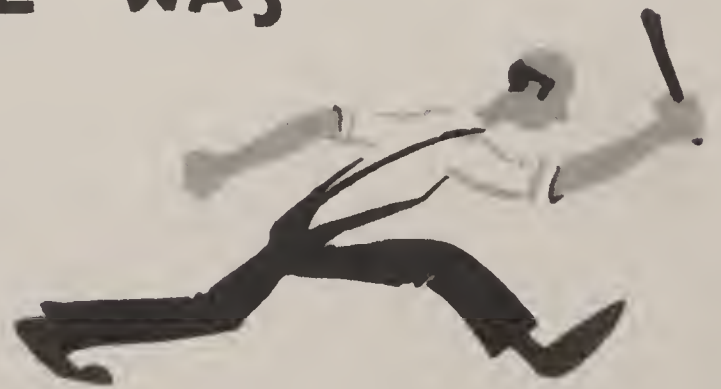
AND THE GNAWED LEG OF THE TABLE

HAD BROKEN SO THE TABLE TOPPLED

OVER PANCAKES AND ALL!

**UNCLE HARRY WAS AS ANGRY AS A
NEST OF HORNETS WHEN HE WENT
OUT OF THE HOUSE TO LOOK FOR
NEEDLES. . .**

**THE LITTLE PORCUPINE WAS
IN TROUBLE AGAIN. . .**



IT WAS GOOD THAT UNCLE HARRY

DIDN'T LOOK IN THE WOODSHED

FOR THERE WAS NEEDLES!

HE WAS QUIETLY GNAWING

A HOLE IN AN


OLD WOODEN

BUCKET. .



BUT UNCLE HARRY COULDN'T WASTE
MUCH TIME LOOKING FOR NEEDLES FOR
THERE WAS TOO MUCH WORK TO BE DONE.
IT WAS THE HAYING SEASON AND ALL
THE FARMERS WERE AS BUSY AS
SQUIRRELS GATHERING NUTS...





**ONE DAY WHEN
UNCLE HARRY CAME IN
WITH A LOAD OF HAY,
HE FOUND AUNTIE MAY
STANDING BY THE CHICKEN
YARD.**

**SHE LOOKED
VERY
ANGRY..**



SHE SAID,

"I'VE COUNTED THE CHICKENS TWICE
AND I'M SURE THAT THREE HENS
ARE MISSING."

UNCLE HARRY LAUGHED AND SAID,

"YOU CAN'T COUNT CHICKENS WHILE
THEY ARE HOPPING AROUND. WAIT
UNTIL THEY GO
INSIDE TO ROOST."

BUT AUNTIE MAY

WAS RIGHT.



AND

THE NEXT DAY

THREE MORE

CHICKENS WERE MISSING!





EVEN THE BIG RED ROOSTER

WORE A WORRIED

LOOK. HE WONDERED WHO

WAS NEXT, AND WHAT

HAD

BECOME OF

SALLY,

MARTHA,

KATIE, NELLIE, LOUISE

AND

DOT . .



AUNTIE MAY SAID,

"THERE'S A CHICKEN THIEF AROUND
HERE. I AM GOING TO WATCH FOR
HIM TONIGHT."



AFTER THE



OTHERS HAD GONE TO BED, SHE
SAT BY THE WINDOW IN THE DARK.
SHE HAD UNCLE HARRY'S SHOT GUN
ACROSS HER KNEES.

**AUNTIE MAY WATCHED UNTIL
HER EYES GREW HEAVY. AT LAST
HER HEAD NODDED AND SHE WAS
FAST ASLEEP. THEN THINGS
BEGAN TO
HAPPEN
OUTSIDE OF
THE HOUSE . .**



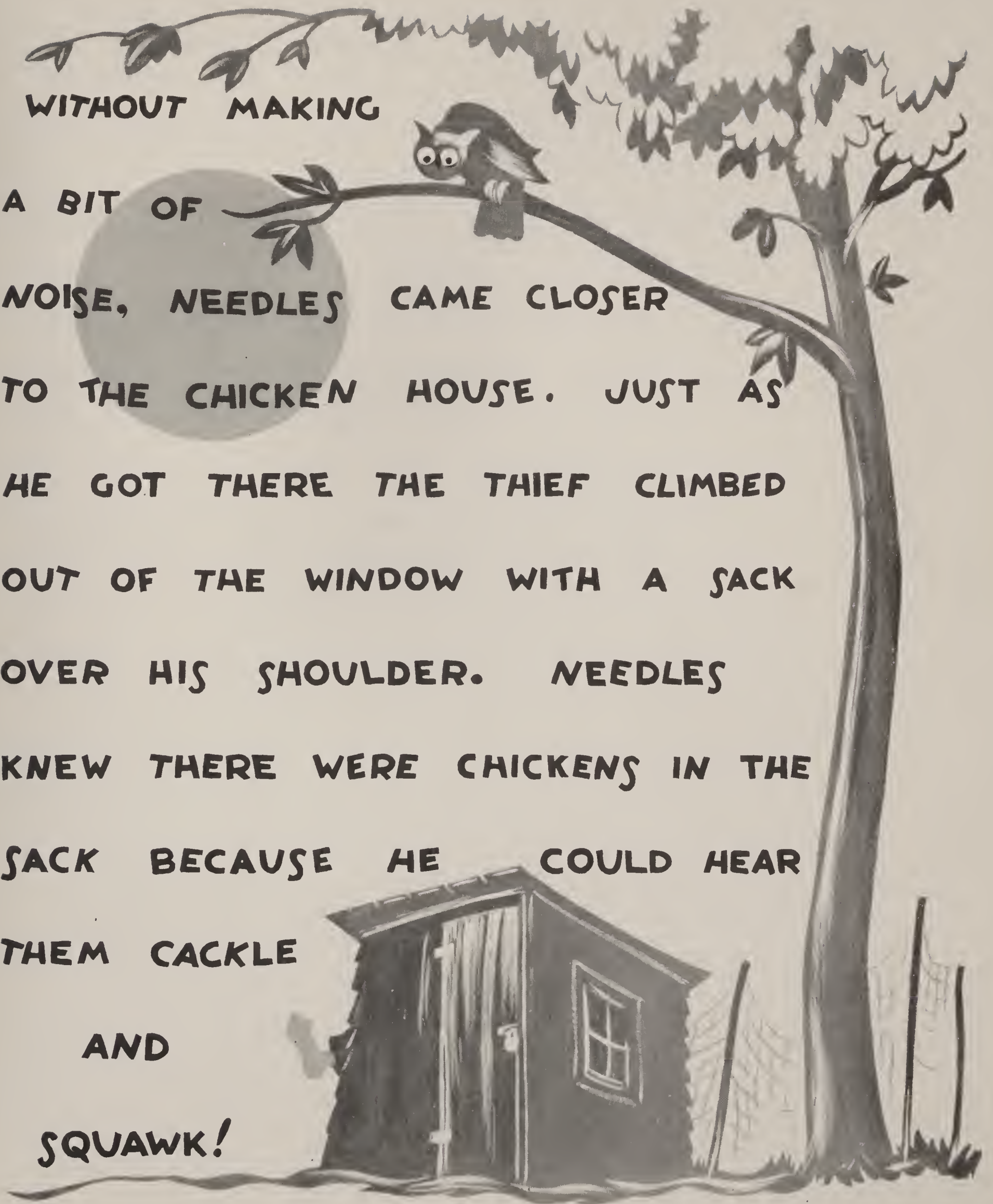
NEEDLES WAS COMING OUT OF THE
WOODSHEED WHEN HE HEARD A NOISE.
IT WAS THE CHICKENS CACKLING IN
THEIR CHICKEN HOUSE...

NEEDLES WADDLED SLOWLY ACROSS
THE YARD. HE WAS READY FOR
ACTION. AND HE BRISTLED LIKE A
SCRUBBING BRUSH FROM HEAD TO TAIL.

THE OLD OWL FROM HIS TREE
HOOTED, "HOOOO-HOOO?" BUT NEEDLES
ONLY GRUNTED...



**WITHOUT MAKING
A BIT OF
NOISE, NEEDLES CAME CLOSER
TO THE CHICKEN HOUSE. JUST AS
HE GOT THERE THE THIEF CLIMBED
OUT OF THE WINDOW WITH A SACK
OVER HIS SHOULDER. NEEDLES
KNEW THERE WERE CHICKENS IN THE
SACK BECAUSE HE COULD HEAR
THEM CACKLE
AND
SQUAWK!**



THEN THE THIEF MADE A VERY
SAD MISTAKE. HE HAD ONE BARE
FOOT ON THE GROUND AND THAT
WAS ALL RIGHT. BUT THE OTHER
BARE FOOT CAME DOWN RIGHT
ON TOP OF
NEEDLES' TAIL!



"Owww!" THE THIEF YELLED.

AND THEN HE DROPPED THE SACK

AND THE CHICKENS FLEW OUT.

THEY CACKLED AND SCOLDED

AND SQUAWKED AS THEY RAN

TO SAFETY...



OF COURSE

THE NOISE WOKE AUNTIE MAY.

AS SHE JUMPED UP, THE

SHOT GUN FELL TO THE FLOOR

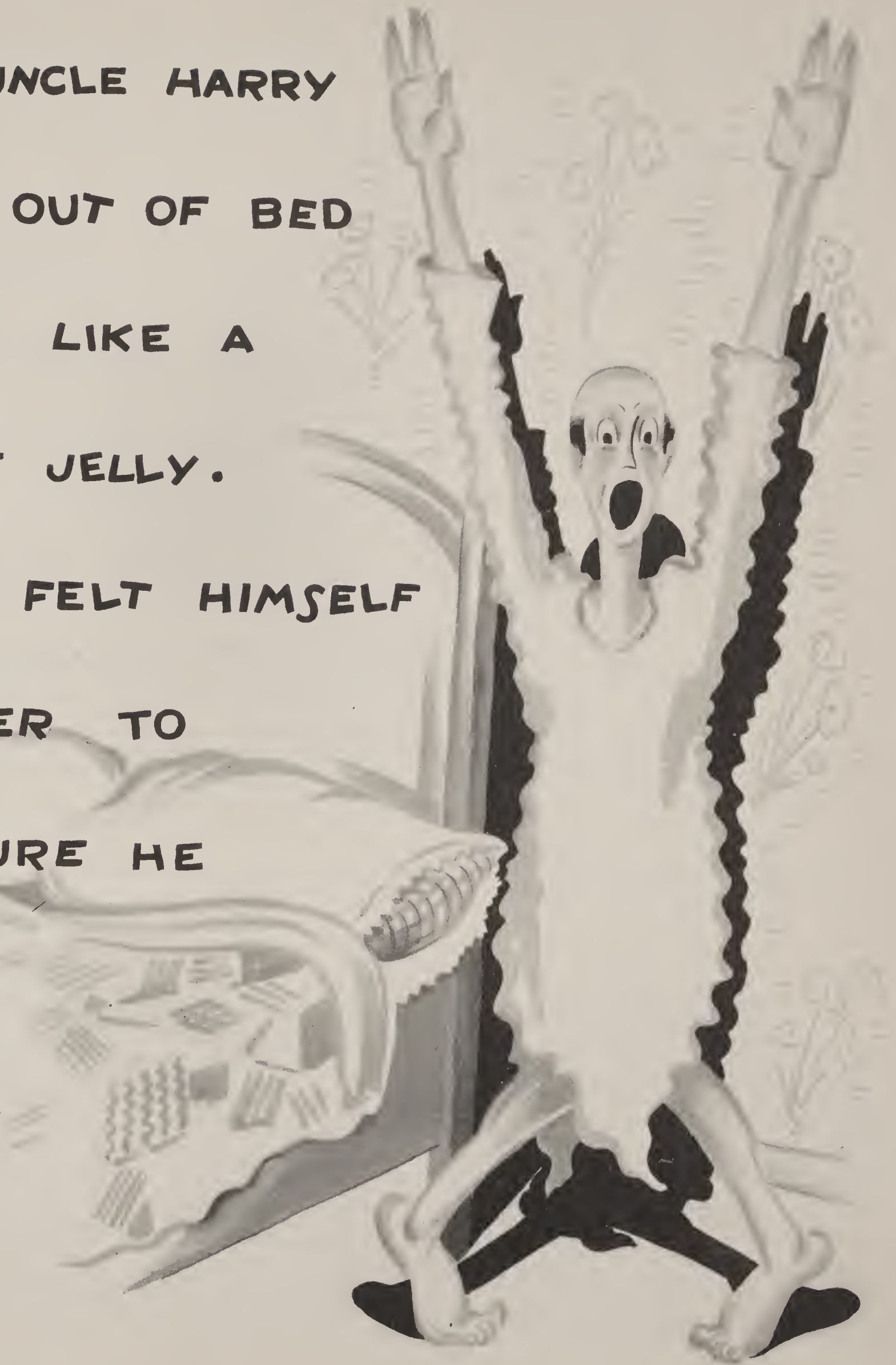
AND FIRED A

LOUD

BANG!



**POOR UNCLE HARRY
POPPED OUT OF BED
SHAKING LIKE A
BOWL OF JELLY.
AND HE FELT HIMSELF
ALL OVER TO
MAKE SURE HE
WASN'T
SHOT . . .**



THEN UNCLE HARRY RAN DOWNSTAIRS.
TIMOTHY WAS ALREADY THERE WITH AUNTIE
MAY. SHE WAS SO EXCITED THAT SHE
COULD BARELY TALK, SO SHE POINTED TO
THE CHICKEN YARD. "HE'S OUT THERE,"
SAID AUNTIE MAY IN A VERY SMALL VOICE.
AND UNCLE HARRY AND TIMOTHY AND
AUNTIE MAY ALL RAN OUT TO THE CHICKEN
YARD IN THEIR NIGHT CLOTHES.



LYING ON THE GROUND RIGHT
BESIDE THE CHICKEN HOUSE WAS
THE THIEF! HE HAD ONE FOOT
IN THE AIR BUT IT LOOKED MORE
LIKE A PORCUPINE THAN
A FOOT . . .
ALMOST ALL
THE QUILLS FROM
NEEDLES' TAIL
WERE IN IT



NEEDLES LOOKED SADLY AT HIS POOR
TAIL AS UNCLE HARRY TOOK THE QUILLS
OUT OF THE THIEF'S FOOT. THEN NEEDLES
DECIDED THAT SINCE HE COULDN'T HAVE
HIS OWN QUILLS BACK AGAIN, HE'D
JUST HAVE TO GROW SOME NEW ONES
BUT IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO GROW
REALLY FINE QUILLS.

AND NEEDLES

MUMBLED AND GRUMBLED

ABOUT PEOPLE WHO STEAL CHICKENS . . .



BUT THE POOR THIEF HADN'T HAD
A VERY GOOD TIME EITHER FOR
PORCUPINE QUILLS ARE VERY SHARP.
SO WHEN HE PROMISED AND PROMISED
THAT HE'D NEVER TRY TO STEAL
ANYTHING AGAIN, THEY ALL
DECIDED TO LET HIM GO.

NEEDLES HAD TAUGHT
HIM A LESSON HE
WOULD NEVER FORGET.



THEN UNCLE HARRY SAID, "NEEDLES HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD WATCH DOG EVEN IF HE IS A PORCUPINE. HE SHOULD HAVE A REWARD. WHAT SHALL IT BE?"

"GIVE HIM AN APPLE." SAID TIMOTHY.

"WHAT, ONLY ONE APPLE? HE SHALL HAVE A BUSHEL." SAID UNCLE HARRY.

AND HE EMPTIED

A BUSHEL OF

APPLES ONTO

THE GROUND

FOR NEEDLES.





THEN NEEDLES DID
SOMETHING VERY
FUNNY. HE ROLLED

OVER AND OVER ON THE APPLES
UNTIL THEY WERE ALL STICKING TO
HIS QUILLS. WHEN HE STOOD UP HE
LOOKED JUST LIKE AN APPLE BUSH.

THEN NEEDLES WOBBLLED OFF

TO THE WOODSHED

TO ENJOY A

MIDNIGHT FEAST...



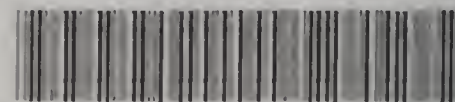
THE NEXT MORNING WHEN
TIMOTHY WENT OUT TO THE
WOODSHED HE SAW APPLES,
CORES OF APPLES AND BITS OF
APPLES ALL OVER THE GROUND.
BUT NEEDLES WAS PERCHED
HIGH ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK.
HE WAS HAPPILY CHEWING
A HOLE IN UNCLE HARRY'S
BEST AX HANDLE . .





THE END

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